

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 7 of 1877.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 17th February 1877.

THE *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 5th February, thus comments on the Viceroy's reply to the address of the British Indian Association, on his return to the Metropolis:—We cannot tell what strange power of fascination the European officers have exercised over Lord Lytton, ever since he wrote the famous Fuller Minute. In the course of his reply to the members of the deputation, he took occasion to address his European fellow-subjects in Bengal, and to refer to their valuable services to the Metropolis; although such a remark was quite uncalled for. Not one word, however, was said regarding the appointment of natives to superior offices in the public service, which had been adverted to in the address. He has lost much of his popularity by his speech at the Delhi Durbar also, in which great indifference was shown to the natives, while the Europeans received an undue prominence. We have been, indeed, led to question the policy of Government in this matter.

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SANGSKARAK,  
February 5th, 1877.

The members of the deputation were assured of the deep sympathy felt by both Her Majesty and the Viceroy for the distress of the sufferers in Eastern Bengal. We, however, are not always able to comprehend the meaning of this genuine sorrow which is felt by the rulers. Numbers have perished from the storm-wave in that unlucky province, and numbers too are dying of disease. We do not see how, without adopting means in the first instance to relieve their sufferings, Government could, in this untoward time, expend lakhs of rupees on fire-works and idle festivities, and yet express sympathy with the sufferers: Government, however, has shown this to be possible.

Lord Lytton has expressed his firm confidence in the increasing prosperity and lasting progress of the Empire. The public, however, generally believe otherwise. We are of opinion that, if the lives of native subjects be not cared for, if their rights be ignored, and the door of progress be barred to them, and, if, with a view to show the power of the British nation, money be lavishly squandered, and natives invited to be pleased and grateful and loyal, there will not be the prosperity and happiness we expected to enjoy from the new Empire. On the contrary, the change will be rather the inauguration of a period of misery for the country. May God give good hearts to our rulers, and save us from all such evils!

2. We extract the following from an article, in the same paper, headed the Calcutta Municipality and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee:—It may be observed, regarding his speech, at a late meeting of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, that without a doubt, he has correctly expressed the opinions of the Native public on the subject. They are not satisfied with the Viceroy's speech. Their minds have been exercised with grave apprehensions, that the rights and privileges they have looked for will be denied, or

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practically ignored. Since such are their opinions, it would be gross hypocrisy and falsehood to profess a firm faith to the contrary; nor does such insincere language become the lips of those, who represent the inhabitants of the Metropolis of British India, even for the purpose of gratifying the ear of Royalty. We do not, however, wonder at the opposition made by Babu Jagadánanda Mookerjee and Moulvi Abdul Luteef Khan Bahadur. Always ready to please the Europeans by means of flattery, no matter how fulsome, they are unsurpassed by any other member of the Hindu or Mahomedan community in this respect; and though we can not say how far Abdool Luteef represents the Mahomedan public, it is almost needless to state that Jagadánanda Babu is not regarded as a representative of the Hindu community. For the sake of currying favor with the Europeans, he has had the imprudence to move in a path different from that of the Hindu public, and has been, therefore, excommunicated. If it were necessary to ascertain the public opinion of the country, the newspapers, which express this opinion, and not witnesses such as these, should be consulted. It would then be seen that Babu Surendra Nath correctly represented the feelings of his countrymen.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
February 9th, 1877.  
Circulation about 650.

3. Adverting to a rumour, that the district of Mymensingh will be divided into two districts, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 9th February, makes the following remarks:—Tirhoot was the largest district under the Government of Bengal, and was therefore parcelled out into two. Next to Tirhoot, Mymensingh enjoys the largest extent of territory; but the reasons which led to the breaking up of the former district do not apply to the latter. There are only three sub-divisions in Mymensingh; and, if Government desires to remove the inconvenience of the people, the establishment of another sub-division and an additional moonsifree chowkee in the parts around Netrakóná will secure the attainment of this object. While on this subject, it amuses us to notice that Mr. Grant, our District Judge, has urged Government to abolish the Moonsifree at Sherpore, thus reducing the number of Moonsifs; and that, at the same time Sir Richard Temple is seeking to benefit his brother civilians by increasing the number of districts in Bengal. The abolition of the moonsifree in question, will be a cause of extreme inconvenience to the people living in the northern parts of the district, and in the villages around Karibári.

BHARAT MIHIR.

4. The same paper thus delivers himself, on the reduction of the age of candidates for the Indian Civil Service:—The Secretary of State for India never bestowed a thought on the prospects of the native candidates, when he proposed the change. What would be the condition of the youth, who, after he had remained in England for two years, and had been put to considerable expense for this purpose, failed to pass the prescribed examination? He would come back to India disappointed, where a petty clerkship is all that would be available for him. Should not our rulers be ashamed of their own acts? Neither the Home Government, nor the Government of India, has been in any way liberal in its treatment of the natives; and yet there would have been but little ground of complaint or room for disappointment, if the Government had been explicit in its statements, and had plainly told us that, as a black and conquered people, we had no right to claim equality with Europeans, or compete with them in the Civil Service. We are tired of noticing the professions of Government, constantly set at naught by its practice. When will Providence teach our rulers honesty, and remove our sorrows?

BHARAT MIHIR.

5. The same paper observes in an editorial paragraph:—No one needs to be told that the increased powers conferred on Magistrates by Sir George

Campbell, under Act X of 1872, have not been productive of beneficial results. They might have been necessary for the Government of barbarous hill tribes; but there was not certainly any room for them in a progressive country like Bengal. The reign of law becomes established, in proportion as a people rises in the scale of civilization; but by the encouragement of magisterial despotism, the authority of law has been disregarded in this province. We hope that Mr. Eden will bear this in mind.

6. The same paper agrees with Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee in thinking that the Viceroy's speech at the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi has disappointed the natives. Far from their faith in their Rulers being strengthened, they have now got an impression that the promises made in 1858 have been indirectly nullified. The Assemblage has had a pompous beginning as well as a pompous end. In 1858, how many hopes did the Queen give us, in a free and sincere spirit; but after a period of 18 years' rule, the Viceroy, instead of furthering them, has not had even the courage to assure us that they will be fulfilled. What conclusion has Government arrived at respecting the natives from an experience of these 18 years? In all other countries conquered people have been gradually admitted to the enjoyment of various privileges. We also, as loyal and dutiful subjects, have all along hoped for them. But what have we obtained during this time? With the exception of two or four high appointments, wherein has Government ceased to make a distinction of creed and color? In 1858, the Queen proclaimed in God's name that no such distinction would be made in India. Why was not a practical effect given to this assurance on the day of the Imperial Assemblage? What wonder that the people should be disappointed? What Surendra Nath Babu said, regarding the feelings of his countrymen on this subject, is perfectly correct.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
February 9th, 1877.  
Circulation about 650.

7. The same paper concurs with the *Bhārat Sangskārak* in noticing, with regret, all omission in the Viceroy's reply to the address of the British Indian Association on the subject of the advancement of natives adverted to.

BHARAT MIHIR.

8. Adverting to the fearful increase of litigation at the present time, and the ruin it is working in native society, the *Amrita Bazar Patrikā*, of the 8th February, dwells on the importance of establishing in Bengal a number of arbitration courts, similar to those organized by the Poona Śārva-janik Sabhā, in Bombay, and which, under the patronage of Government, have proved eminently beneficial. The experiment cannot be made in Bengal too soon; nor will the institution be a novel one, considering that a large number of disputes were formerly adjudicated by punchayets, and this institution is still recognized by the existing laws.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 8th, 1877.  
Circulation about 2,217

9. The same paper continues to receive most painful letters from the distressed people in Eastern Bengal. They disclose a fearful amount of mortality and suffering in that ill-fated province, and implore the attention of Government to the necessity of sending them immediate relief.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

10. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the hardships, to which the people in the Sonthal Pergunnahs have been subjected by the despotic acts of the settlement officers. The form in which the new lease is drawn up, and the haste which is being made by the officers to force it upon the people, though it is illegal to do so, are extremely harassing.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

11. Another correspondent of the same paper beseeches Government to postpone the introduction, into Tipperah, of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 for another year.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
February 9th, 1877.  
Circulation about 1,168.

12. The *Education Gazette*, of the 9th February, observes, in reference to the complaints so frequently made from different parts of the country, of a want of roads, that now the Road Cess is being levied from the people, it is the duty of Government to enquire into their representations and undertake to meet the want.

SAMAJ DARPAN,  
February 9th, 1877.  
Circulation about 460.

13. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 9th February, regrets to notice that, at the toll stations on the Calcutta Canals, a great deal of oppression and extortion is practised on the mahajuns, who send their goods by boats. The aggrieved, however, have laid their complaints before the Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

SAMAJ DARPAN.

14. The same paper makes the following remarks on the Minute by Sir Richard Temple, prefixed to the last Administration Report of Bengal:—We are glad to read this Minute; and, excepting that part wherein an undue partiality has been shown towards the civilians, it has generally secured our approbation. Hardly a day passes without the native newspapers commenting on oppressions of some one or other of the civilian officers; yet Sir Richard Temple states that such oppressions are seldom heard of. Sir Richard has paid but little regard to the opinions expressed by the native newspapers, and would defend any person who might become a subject of their attack. He stopped the publication of the Weekly Report on the Native Papers, and, unlike his predecessor Sir George Campbell, was displeased with them. Sir Richard has praised the deference to the law shown by the natives of this province; in fact, they are unsurpassed in this respect by any other nation in the world. They entertain a profound respect for law; but only lose their patience at the very mention of the Criminal Procedure Code. And the reason of this is not far to seek. In no other law does there obtain any distinction of creed or color. Regarding Sir Richard's remarks on the system of jail discipline, we would observe that natives are strongly opposed to the barbarous practice of flogging criminals. We have no confidence in the Superintendents of the Jails. The prisoners in the mofussil are subjected to fearfully cruel treatment; and the local authorities sometimes indulge in horrible oppressions to gratify their spite against a prisoner. We fully agree with Sir Richard Temple in maintaining that the native press is loyal to the British rule. We repeatedly say that under it are enjoyed the blessings of peace and education and of good government. None of us wishes ill to the Government. Of course we have grievances; but these may be easily removed by the rulers courting our acquaintance, giving us superior appointments in the public service, giving up the use of such expressions as "nigger" towards us, and abandoning the policy of draining the wealth of the country.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
February 9th, 1877.

15. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 9th February, observes, in reference to the recurrence of famines in India, in spite of her fertility, that, as these calamities are wholly due to the exportation of rice to Europe, it behoves the rulers to prohibit this, especially in times of scarcity.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI.

16. Writing on the subject of the East Indian Railway, the same paper urges on Government the desirability of appointing natives to the superior and responsible offices under the Railway Company; and points out the inconveniences to which native passengers are subjected for want of refreshment rooms at the several stations, and from the carriages being overcrowded. The attention of the approaching Railway Conference is drawn to the matter.

GRAMBARTÁ  
PRAKASHIKÁ,  
February 10th, 1877.  
Circulation about 200.

17. Sir George Campbell's scheme of parallel promotion, says the *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 10th February, has produced a spirit of insubordination towards the Judges, in the minds of the District Magistrates,

by placing them in a rather independent position with reference to the former. This disposition on the part of the Executive has called forth an expression of opinion from the Government of India as to their relative positions. We would here advert to another point. Many of the District Judges are deficient in a knowledge of law, from having been appointed to try civil cases without having had any experience in the work. From being Joint-Magistrates they are promoted to District Judgeships, without any preparatory training for civil duties. We, therefore, propose that, instead of this sudden elevation to the District Bench, they should be first appointed Subordinate Judges.

18. Adverting to the poverty of the Indian Exchequer, at the present time, from the large drains which have been made on it, owing to the occurrence of famines, durbars, and other costly events in the country, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 10th February, apprehends a re-imposition of the Income Tax, and dwells on the injurious consequences which are likely to follow such a measure. It would be well for Government if, instead of having recourse to this extreme and unpopular act, it could obviate the probable deficits by making a reduction of expenditure, especially on the highly paid services. Many such appointments, held by Europeans, are unnecessary, and might be abolished without injury to the public interests.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
February 10th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

19. In reviewing the last Administration Report of Bengal, the same paper remarks that Sir Richard's rule has been productive of more evil than good. He sought to gain popularity by means of sweet, though insincere, professions. The people have, however, now found him out. He was remarkably partial towards the faults of the civilians; and this feeling has found expression in the Report. He proposed the creation of four new districts in Bengal the purpose of securing the promotion of the members of his favored service.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

20. The *Sádháraní*, of the 10th February, in commenting on the Viceroy's speech at the Assemblage, deems that passage especially open to objection, in which natives of India were directed to follow the example of "those who, by birth, rank, and hereditary influence, are their natural leaders." This sentiment does not become the Viceroy of the British nation, which respects worth more than rank; and whose leader was up to the last few days plain Mr. Benjamin Disraeli. "You must all adopt as your own that highest standard of public virtue which comprises loyalty, incorruptibility, impartiality, truth, and courage. The Government of Her Majesty will then welcome your co-operation in the work of administration." Now, in this passage, a charge is by implication brought against natives in general; and such wholesale abuse needs contradiction.

SADHARANI,  
February 10th, 1877.  
Circulation about 516.

21. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 11th February, testifies to the correctness of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjie's observations, respecting the national feeling on the Viceroy's speech at Delhi, and thinks it strange that so few of the Commissioners supported him on the point.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 11th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

22. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 12th February, dwells on the injustice of supporting, from the Indian revenues, which are derived from the followers of different creeds, a State Church for the benefit of a small section of Christians. This partiality is likely to be productive of highly injurious consequences. Government should stop its expenditure on a church establishment.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
February 12th, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

23. The same paper is disappointed to notice that, in the amended Abkari Bill, there is no provision likely to act as a check on the increase of

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intemperance, the vice which is ruining educated natives. Government should abolish the distilleries and impose a high duty on spirituous liquors.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
February 12th, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

24. The same paper offers, as a consolation to the educated natives who are disappointed to find their aspirations disregarded by Government, the thought that the British nation is intensely self-seeking; and that it is capable of doing anything that may be required of it, in case its interests are threatened.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
February 14th, 1877.

25. In continuation of the article of the 7th February, the editor of the *Behár Bándhu* makes the following remarks. Although we may have become, as it were, inanimate and enfeebled, yet we may allege that, no subjects of any kingdom, receive such benefits as we do from the English. We will not hesitate to give up our all; but we desire that wisdom and knowledge, gifts which we shall never forget, be left us in return. The reason, why these are held in such high estimation, is, because we view with regret the great blot that may fall on the upright administration of the English by the narrow mindedness of some of its administrators. It may be worthy of consideration, that, if a European wrote a true history of the country, he would not fail to describe its (native) administrators as being uncivilized and of a blemished reputation. Among these *Mulhar Ráo* would be the chief. Yet, after doing this, he would also have to state that, the people of *Baroda*, after having had some experience of English administration for something more than a year, desired to be placed under *Mulhar Ráo* again, and had with that view petitioned the English Government. It may be asked how this comes about, since the application is made not by a few, but was subscribed to by twenty-five or thirty thousand persons. It therefore behoves our English rulers to administer the affairs of this country in such a manner, that its administration may shine forth without spot or blemish. The English temperament is altogether one of race partizanship; and this is what has led the Bengali papers to clamour for higher appointments, such as Judges and Magistrates, to be bestowed on the natives of Bengal; and they expected such appointments would have been conferred publicly on some of their number at the Delhi *Darbár*, and for this they are in every way qualified. But while the Bengalis are thus striving energetically, and though disappointed at present, may be expected in time to attain the object of their desires, what are the *Biharis* doings? Sitting listless and idle.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 17th February 1877.*

JOHN ROBINSON,  
*Government Bengali Translator.*

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending  
the 17th February 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī" ...	Barāhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Pous, 1283 B. S.
2	"Bhārat Sangskārak" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	5th February 1877.
3	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
4	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
5	"Amrita Bazar Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
6	"Samāj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Patrikā" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
9	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
10	"Pratikār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
11	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishinī" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
14	"Howrah Hitakarī" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
15	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
16	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
17	"Sambād Bhāskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
18	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
19	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	10th to 16th February 1877
20	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	3rd to 10th ditto.
21	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	8th to 16th ditto.
22	"Jām-Jahān-numā" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	9th to 16th ditto.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th February.
24	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

